

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action dated September 22, 2006, applicant has filed an Amendment which applicant believes places same in a condition for allowance. The Action did not contain substantive refusals of claims 3 and 4 and it is these claims which serve the basis for independent claims 1 and 3 which are now presented.

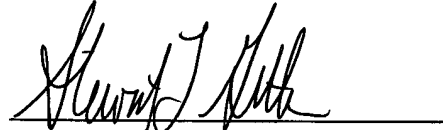
Claim 1 includes the limitations of claim 4 with the exception of the locking element being a swiveling locking element and also contains the features of prior claims 11 and 12. This claim refers to the embodiment shown in Figures 2 and 4. This embodiment discloses that the locking of the weight disks is obtained by radially forcing the weight disks with their outer edge area (outer circumference) into the recesses formed on the inner surfaces of the casing (Figure 2) or with the inner edge area (edge area of the opening) (20) in the recess of the journal (21) (Figure 4). The reference which was cited as the basis of the 35 USC §102(b) refusal, namely, Sreter, does not disclose, suggest nor render obvious the features set forth in claim 1 above.

Regarding independent claims 3 and 4, the objections to the claims regarding the phrasing "consist of at least one" have been clarified with proper language and as such these claims, which have no substantive refusals, are also now in a condition for allowance. All dependent claims have been revised to overcome the objections set forth in the Action and claims 2, 5, 6 and 18 have been canceled. Claims 19 and 20, which have been added, are claims 2 and 5 rewritten in a form which complies with U.S. patent claim practice.

The application now stands in a condition for approval.

If any questions remain concerning the application,
please do not hesitate to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stewart L. Gitler", is written over a horizontal line.

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